

ABSOLUTE RATING: Good
IMPROVEMENT RATING: Good

Number of high schools with students similar to ours: 31. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from below average to excellent. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.

(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
2001	Good	Good
2002		
2003		
2004		

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our School			Schools With Students Like Ours		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
• Passed all 3 subtests	57.6	72.5	74.1	65.5	67.9	72.1
• Passed 2 subtests	15.5	13.4	14.8	18.5	17.4	15.2
• Passed 1 subtest	17.6	10.5	6.9	9.7	9.7	8.5
• Passed no subtests	9.4	3.6	4.1	6.2	5.0	4.2

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS	Our School	Schools With Students Like Ours
% of seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships	13.7%	21.4%
% of seniors who met the SAT requirement	17.0%	22.7%
% of seniors who met the grade point average	39.6%	55.1%

Beginning in 2003, the graduation rate for each high school will be included in the school rating.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

Student Group	Seniors		
	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2001	Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships	Graduation Rate
All students	93.0%	13.7%	N/A until 2003
Students with disabilities other than speech	66.7%	0.0%	
Students without disabilities	95.1%	14.5%	
Gender			
Male	90.8%	10.1%	
Female	95.0%	17.5%	
Ethnic Group			
African American	88.8%	0.0%	
Hispanic	100.0%	0.0%	
White	95.0%	22.1%	
Other	N/A	N/A	
Lunch Status			
Free/reduced-price lunch	87.0%	0.0%	
Pay for lunch	95.2%	17.8%	

STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Mastering core competencies	68.7%
Completers placed	98.6%
Eligible students enrolled	71.5%

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
SCHOOL				
• Dollars spent per student	\$4,823	N/A	\$5,788	\$5,668
• Prime instructional time	90.5%	Up from 89.6%	89.7%	90.1%
• Student-teacher ratio	29.9 to 1	N/A	25.4 to 1	25.1 to 1
STUDENTS (n=1,529)				
• Advanced Placement/ Int'l Baccalaureate Program Exam Success Ratio	50.0%	N/A	43.4%	40.0%
• Attendance rate	96.0%	Up from 94.7%	95.2%	95.3%
• Retention rate	19.1%	Up from 12.7%	9.4%	10.0%
TEACHERS (n=98)				
• Professional Development days per teacher	7.6 Days	Up from 6.8	7.3 Days	7.5 Days
• Attendance rate	95.7%	Down from 95.9%	95.8%	95.7%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	49.0%	Down from 52.2%	50.0%	49.4%
• Continuing contract teachers	77.6%	Down from 88.2%	84.4%	81.0%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	7.1%	Up from 0.0%	3.0%	3.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	85.1%	Down from 90.6%	86.9%	85.2%
• Average teacher salary	\$38,095	Up 5.0%	\$38,128	\$38,125

SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median High School
SCHOOL				
• Dropout rate	1.5%	Down from 3.0%	2.9%	2.9%
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	59.9%	N/A	56.1%	56.4%
• Principal's years at the school	3.0	N/A	3.0	3.0
• Percent of parents attending conferences	87.9%	N/A	60.7%	60.1%
• Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/A	Excellent	Excellent
STUDENTS				
• Older than usual for grade	15.2%	Up from 11.6%	9.9%	10.1%
• Suspended or expelled	27	N/A	29	29
• Gifted and talented	11.2%	Down from 11.3%	11.2%	7.4%
• With disabilities other than speech	13.4%	Up from 11.0%	11.4%	10.7%
• Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	6.5%	N/A	4.1%	4.5%
• Enrollment in career and technology center courses	1093	N/A	348	350
• Career students participating in work-based experiences	28.3%	N/A	27.1%	23.1%



PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

For the second consecutive year, students at Laurens District 55 High School continued to show gains on standardized test scores. The new school renewal plan addresses academic achievement and career planning. Changes included:

- Adding a Balanced Literacy Program
- Changing Algebra 1 from a semester-long course to a year-long course
- Scheduling students into the PLATO Lab to strengthen their basic skills
- Using the PEN Lab to provide long-distance learning opportunities
- Offering SAT preparation classes in the evenings
- Reducing the number of dropouts by providing a Twilight School
- Utilizing the TIP project to review basic skills prior to the Exit Exam
- Adding a Career Counselor
- Increasing parent involvement in our PTO

LDHS is also a member of High Schools That Work, meaning that teachers work together to increase expectations for student achievement, provide a challenging program of study, and plan integrated lessons.

Our challenges this year are similar to those from last year: 50% of entering freshmen scored "Below Basic" in Mathematics and/or English; we have space limitations; and the nationwide teacher shortage affects our ability to secure qualified staff members. Our staff, however, is dedicated to educating all children, and we are proud of their hard work. We expect all of our students to experience success at LDHS.

Tara A. Dean
Principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	70.6	49.1	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	72.4	64.2	
Satisfied with home-school relations	43.3	71.4	

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.
Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.
Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.
Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.
Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

3055004

Laurens District 55 High
5058 Hwy. 76 West
Laurens, SC 29360



Grades 9-12 High School

Enrollment: 1,529 Students

Principal

Mrs. Tara Dean 864-682-3151

Superintendent

Edgar C. Taylor 864-984-3568

Board Chair

Leni N. Patterson 864-682-2633

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School
Report Card

2001

School Grade:
Good



South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at
www.myschools.com